

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12 of First Extraordinary Session

By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Elise West upon winning the Memphis and Shelby County Spelling Bee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should honor those individuals, who through their natural talents and unflagging commitment, excel in their various academic endeavors and utilize their education to execute feats of great intellectual achievement; and

WHEREAS, one such modern-day scholar is Elise West, who distinguished herself by winning first place in the Memphis and Shelby County Spelling Bee, sponsored by *The Commercial Appeal*; and

WHEREAS, Elise prevailed over stiff competition from 159 other school champions from public, private, parochial, and home schools in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the twelve-year-old seventh grader correctly spelled the five words, brethren, rancor, gasconade, morion, and sauerbraten, before correctly spelling the winning word, lapideous, to win the elite competition; and

WHEREAS, for winning the spelling bee, Elise was awarded an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., where she will properly represent the State of Tennessee on May 30 to June 5 at the annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee and compete against worthy contestants representing 48 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Department of Defense and State Department schools in Western Europe; and

WHEREAS, other notable prizes included, a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond and the Winner's Trophy from *The Commercial Appeal*, a Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its Addenda Section copyright 1993, a Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia CD-ROM, and the Samuel Sugarman Award (a \$100 U.S. savings bond from philanthropist Jay Sugarman), in addition to receiving a "Certificate of Recognition" from the Memphis City School's Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Elise is a veteran champion of spelling bees; she also represented Tipton-Rosemark Academy at the 1996-1997 Mississippi Private School Educational Association's District and State Spelling Bees to win first place at both competitions and achieve second place at the 1996-1997 Southeastern Independent School Association's "Regional" Spelling Bee; and

WHEREAS, the straight-A student currently attends Raleigh Egypt Middle School in Memphis, Tennessee and is enrolled in the prestigious Duke University MAP program, which identifies children who score in the 95 and above percentile in at least one category of the standardized test scores; and

WHEREAS, Elise enjoys many and diverse hobbies that include playing the piano and studying the martial art, Tae Kwon Do, as evidenced by her membership in the Black Belt Club at Tae Kwon Do USA; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her studies and hobbies, Elise still finds time to lend her incredible talents to such noteworthy causes as animal care and plans to volunteer at a local veterinary hospital this summer; and

WHEREAS, Elise West faithfully worships the Lord as an active and devout member of the Pleasant Union Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where she sings in the choir; and

WHEREAS, Elise West exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Elise's noteworthy achievement is a great source of pride for her parents, Michael and Rebecca West, her school, and her community; and

WHEREAS, Elise West, champion of the Memphis and Shelby County Spelling Bee, is deserving of the commendation, respect, and admiration of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Elise West upon her victory at the Memphis and Shelby County Spelling Bee and wish her every continued success in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.